

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fingerprint collating device for collating a user's fingerprint with registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication, said device comprising:

fingerprint reader for reading said fingerprint to create read fingerprint information, and to create read hysteresis information indicating that said read fingerprint information has been created;

read hysteresis storage for storing said read hysteresis information; and

collator for collating said read fingerprint information with said registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication and output a result of authentication when said read hysteresis information is stored in said read hysteresis storage.

2. The fingerprint collating device according to claim 1, wherein

said collator effects said personal authentication by using said registered fingerprint information supplied from external.

3. The fingerprint collating device according to claim 1 further comprising:

registered fingerprint information storage for storing said registered fingerprint information, in which said collator effects

said personal authentication by using said registered fingerprint information stored in said registered fingerprint information storage.

4. A fingerprint collating method for collating a user's fingerprint with registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication, said method comprising the steps of:

reading said fingerprint to create read fingerprint information, and to create read hysteresis information indicating that said read fingerprint information has been created;

storing said read hysteresis information in read hysteresis storing means; and

collating said read fingerprint information with said registered fingerprint information to effect personal authentication and output a result of authentication when said read hysteresis information is stored in said read hysteresis storing means.